

## Steering Committee Members Ward 6 NPA

Matt Grady

Mary Riley

Joel FitzGerald

Michelle Mraz

Caroline Hauser

Nelson Martelle

NPA Meeting December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

### Open Forum

Neil Groberg expressed concern over the recent postings at the Burlington Country Club's property. In the past residents could use it and now they cannot. Finds it enjoyable place for cross country skiing- there has been concern over vandalism. Michelle said the Grounds Director has concerns with so many more users and ongoing projects and damage to the course. She suggested calling Burlington Country Club directly to find out what the guidelines are and if there was permission being granted for some activities.

Michelle invited Tiff Blumberg to speak regarding her new appointment as a Freshman Legislator. Tiff started out by saying Gabrielle and herself will be switching between Wards 5 and 6. The house has 34 new members and she does not know yet of her committee until the session start and they are reviewing JFO numbers. They will have more information at that time. They are meeting remotely which is better for the staff. What does the NPA and City Council need from the legislators besides updates. Michelle asked what the JFO numbers were Tiff replied it is the Joint Fiscal Office the state releases a whole bunch of economic numbers regarding the rest of the year. Michelle asked other steering committees to chime in for ideas in the past the NPA has asked Legislators to speak at the beginning of what their goals are and come back at the end to report how their term went. Mary said anytime you wish to come and report or to speak please let the committee know. Tiff said that she can only speak in general terms at this point. Remote working makes you work harder to develop relationships of people you don't know. Reach out to others be deliberate for asking for help and getting orientated. It's challenging for those who are new and knowing who to turn to and what's available and reach across the parties for that assistance. There are 30 hours of orientation that people are covering for people who are working full time, and sharing it together. Michelle thanks Tiff for speaking.

Michelle introduced Kevin Pounds CEO The New Place at the Champlain Inn is being converted into a temporary low bearer shelter on Shelburne Road. As the shelter is in close proximity to Ward 6 our residences are anxious to hear more about the project and the goals of the program. Kevin thanked the

residences for the positive welcoming and reaching out to the program. The encouragement has been extremely helpful. The goal of the low bearer shelter is to break the cycle of some of the residences there. Kevin presented a power point to help explain the background of the organization of the Burlington Emergency Shelter which ran from 1982 to 2014 6pm meals, get a bunk, am coffee and back on the streets. The overall frustration was the cycle of repeating instead of charting a path forward. 2014 changes came with case management, long term housing is to break the cycle helping with sobriety and reconnecting with family, and moving into long term housing and moving away from the emergency shelter to transitional housing.

Fall of 2019 the City approached to take over the low bearer shelter program, this program got shuffled around as it was a difficult program to run with staff burnout, sustainability

. The program was being run in the basement of 179 South Winooski. The project was moved the North Beach Campground from March to May through COVID and then to sanction a tenting area after. Vermont Housing and Conservation board has provided a grant to renovating The Champlain Inn which is a 34unit 50 bed temporary housing facility. There will be more onsite services available

Questions: Andy: Supports the project with long term goals How much staffing will be onsite? 2 people per shift 24/7 min., mid-day to end of day up to 3 staff on duty.

How are they referred? Self-referral, off the street, Economic services referrals, and other agencies within the community such as COTS, and Howard. 2/3 of the guests are from other agencies in town. Helps with the transitions to needs of services with the help of breaking the cycle. Site services formal and informal. Two layers of case management one triage with encouraging people and chatting with people with people who are service reversed. Other case managers charted new path for those who have the goal of moving forward.

Mark: Sober housing is needed for those who are out on Federal Supervised Release through the Federal Probation Office. There is a need for those who are coming out of programs such as Valley Vista that are working but in the need of transitional housing such as this. Residential housing is in severe shortage in this area. Mark encouraged Kevin to reach out to US Attorney Christina Nolan for further information of maybe developing a collaborative relationship in this area.

Matt: How do you feel this helps percentage of demand? Kevin: At this time there are 568 hotel rooms in the Chittenden county area Chittenden County Homeless Alliance to house people who are experiencing homelessness and it is not sustainable the increase due to the COVID crisis and it's not sustainable for the state. And the situation is not really set up for helping people move forward and out of the cycle.

Mary: Are you open to food donations? Kevin: COVID has made it difficult with individually packaged meals and we have a really close relationship with New Moon Café who has been providing us with our meals daily at night.

Becky: Are most of your clients' families or individuals? Kevin: They are all individuals all families are staying at one hotel with the assistance of economic services and referred to Cots.

Thank you, Kevin, for coming and sharing this information with us. Please check out [www.anewplacevt.org](http://www.anewplacevt.org) for further information.

Megan Moir Department of Public Works, Wastewater monitoring

Megan shared her screen for her presentation.

Waste water epidemiology. They have been working hard to provide drinking water and waste water during COVID and have been very successful. Waste Watersheds are extremely helpful for tracking this information and to get a few days ahead of tracking the virus. According to the graph you can detect the genes /components you can see it when someone starts shedding and the virus and it's a way to detect the concentration of the virus and you can see and track the uptick. This practice is being used in Europe and in South Africa as well. There are so many different factors that go into this process. The hope is getting a few days ahead of the virus and to prevent outbreaks. Certain sewer sheds within the city are going to show higher results than others and that is determined with the demographics of the area. The New North End showed higher elevations as it is primarily a residential area. We have seen some of the higher concentrations in that area. The southern sewer sheds have had more waste from commercial buildings such as restaurants and breweries so things might be more diluted.

The sewer sheds can be tested right at the treatment plant and this is just one piece of an integrated that goes into tracing the virus and the results should not replace of testing any social distancing and or mask wearing it is just one more imperfect data set. Once the test results start going up then they recommend going out into the sewer sheds. Our waste water team has been your heroes during all of this in doing this above and beyond the things within the wastewater that are there that should not be there, flushable wipes are a big problem and should not be put into the waste water. The results are sent to a lab in Colorado. A lot of background that went into this process we looked at our sewer system and used our hydraulic model and a lot of conversations regarding what the right sewer sheds were. The three plants were New North End, Main Street and the East side which is over on Riverside Ave.

There were different slides that were presented that showed different levels of the plants and upticks of the different sewer sheds. There is speculation that some of the upticks from different sheds were caused by the increase of cases at the hospital. Samples taken after Thanksgiving show an uptick. The city shares all data with the Department of Health, when there is a significant change it is shared with the public. They are looking at increased testing opportunities as well within the city.

Please visit <https://coronavirus-response-burlingtonvt.hub.aris.com/pages/wastewatermonitoring>

Kelly Lamonda Vermont Department of Health Contact Tracing

Contact tracing has been doing it since March. Case investigation and contact tracing is a core disease health measure is a key strategy to prevent COVID

Contact tracing overview Department of Health.

Working with the patient and reach the contacts before they transmit the disease to others.

Interview: positive test results gather information when the symptoms started and what they have the day is key. Where they may have contracted it. If it's not clear it's key to go back 14 days prior to symptom development. Then its important to know the people they consider close contact who they were with 2 days prior to their symptom development within 6 'for 15 minutes or more (cumulative) a 24-hour period. Isolation guidance is then given and clear day 0 is the day your symptoms have developed. You have to meet 3 criteria's to be released for their quarantine. A minimum of 10 days 24

hours without a fever and your symptoms are improved. Day 10 if you still feel sick, they ask that you extend your quarantine. Day 10 if you feel better you can be released. Quarantining is important and review that people have a safe place and have someone to deliver food what resources do they need. There is a team to help make sure they can isolate safely and correctly. There is a graph available on the website as the incubation period varies. Day 0 is the symptom development 2 days before is the infectious period. It reviews the information.

### Contact Tracing

Call the contacts that were provided and conduct a short interview. Most times they know already know they have been exposed. The majority of time is it not a surprise, and confirm the date. Ask of any symptoms, we ask for testing, if no symptoms we ask they quarantine and watch for symptoms and stay home for 14 and no symptoms at day 7 go get tested and if results come back negative you can be released from your quarantine early. Again, we offer resources for proper quarantining.

### Timeline for close contacts

Asking for 14-day quarantine as it takes 14 days for symptoms to show up if after 7 days no symptoms, get a test and if results are negative you can be released from quarantine. Positive test then they become a patient and review the interview process.

Another graph was shared and that not everyone who has been in contact is considered a close contact. And not every place the person has gone to is considered a risk. It's up to the interviewer to determine whether it is or not. The expert team offers the guidance to making those decisions as to the risk of the case.

Please check out [www.healthvermont.gov/COVID19](http://www.healthvermont.gov/COVID19) for further information or call COVID line 802-863-7240.

Tracey Dolan Deputy Commissioner of Health was unable to be reached at this time.

### Questions:

Matt: Based on the results, would you be doing more targeted sampling? Megan: With the uptick regular sub-sewer sheds have been conducted and the North end has showed an uptick but going with caution that it's all residential as opposed to others. The others will be more diluted than the Old North end. Has helped with long term care facilities about possible upticks and require more testing withing that area. Matt what is the time frame? Generally, 4-7 days. Megan where people are shedding the virus but not showing symptoms. Mary the current testing that is showing high concentrations like the hospital would that include UVM as well? Megan if there is less water the results will be higher as UVM students are not on campus. The watershed for the hospital is not in the best location to come up with more accurate results. Mary to Kelly Are you seeing more results of asymptomatic people or has it remained the same. Kelly was unsure about an accurate answer due to the amount of people they are being interviewed. There is data available.

Masking, Social Distancing, Waste water testing all are components of preventing the spread of this disease within the community.

Michelle to Megan how much of all this testing was part of your job before COVID? Megan: there were a lot of testing from various waste sheds were being done before. We have partnered with the Epidemiology team before regarding drug studies and there are many components of this team that make this all work as well. It is challenging but fascinating.

Mary to Kelly is there a theory short incubation period verses a longer incubation period between elder, healthy verses unhealthy? Is there a difference? Kelly I am unsure, I am sure there is data available regarding that but I do not know. Mary are the current numbers spread through out the state. Kelly as of yesterday's 178 cases it does seem be distributed more widely than it was. Various chat about various testing around facilities. Michelle are the local colleges doing hyper local testing within the dorms? Megan said those conversations have been had but expensive and DPW doesn't have this type of man power and the only other city is Rutland is considering doing this type of testing but it doesn't work for every community also it's important those are connected to a municipal water system not a septic. Caroline, how many people that you have contact traced that were positive were shocked that they tested positive stating they have felt they have been as proactive as possible? Kelly there has not been a lot of shocked people as usually know when they have been exposed.

Called to the end of the meeting.